

Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd

Minutes of Board of Directors meeting held at Co-operative Purchasing Services Ltd, Monday, 18 December 2000 at 11.15 a.m.

Present: D. Griffiths (Chair), C. Greenwood, Peter Jamieson, J. Luckman, N. Black and G. Charles (Executive Officer)

Apologies : M. Boyce, Ron Stone, Tony O'Shea and Val Ogier

Board Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the board meeting held on 16 November 2000 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting and duly signed by the Chair.

Chairman

David Griffiths advised it was necessary to appoint a Chairman. He suggested that sometimes a Chairman had reached a use by date, should not necessarily continue because of a personal desire and there may be another director will to undertake the responsibilities of Chairman.

Resolved to reappoint David Griffiths as Chairman.

Rule Changes

It was noted that Nigel Hill (Gaden's) had promised a response shortly on the board and casual vacancies.

Co-operation Awards

The Chairman apologised for not circulating the terms of reference for the review of the Co-operation Awards. He said that these would be circulated with the minutes of today's meeting.

CBAV

The Executive Officer reported that Consumer Business Affairs Victoria had agreed to the requested funding of \$25,000.

The Chairman noted that this was the largest grant received by the Federation from CBAV and its predecessors.

DNE

The Executive Officer reported that the latest advice from the Minister of Agriculture's office on Wednesday 13 December 2000 was that there was difficulty in sourcing the funding.

It was noted that the Federation had been requested by the Minister to make a funding application.

Resolved to follow-up the Minister's office on the funding and follow this with a letter to the Minister for Agriculture.

Web Site

The Chairman noted that further development of the Federation's web site was in hiatus and would not be re-activated until he visited the North East Telecommunications Co-operative at a time to be arranged in the first three weeks of January.

Executive Officer Term of Appointment

The Chairman suggested that the Executive Officer Working Party should meet early in 2001. The Chairman noted that the purpose of the Working Party was to review the work tasks of the Executive Officer and not the Executive Officer and it would be appropriate for the Executive Officer to attend the meeting. It was agreed that the Executive Officer would attend the meeting.

The Co-operative Difference: Developing Directors of Co-operatives

There was a discussion on the Developing Directors of Co-operatives Kit prepared by Active Learning & Communication Co-operative Ltd (ALCC).

There was general agreement on the following:

- The Kit was primarily a learning resource for co-operatives, directors and members.
- The Kit was also a reference manual.
- The Kit should be updated as necessary and any Kit sold should include any updates over the next 12 months.
- Kit would be sold separately to members and non-members but there would be an incentive for participation in a workshop.
- There would be a substantial price difference for members and non-members.
- Individual Kit sale price for members \$150 with a 25% discount for five or more copies.

- Individual Kit sale price for non-members \$300 with a 25% discount for five or more copies.
- Workshop cost (including one Kit) \$250 for members with a 25% discount if three or more participants.
- Workshop cost (including one Kit) \$425 for non-members with a 25% discount if three or more copies.

Finance

The Chairman asked whether the revised financial statements provided the board with the information required and there was no objection to the revised format.

Resolved that the Statement of Receipts & Payments 1/7/2000 – 31/10/2000 be received and resolved to confirm the accounts for payment

New Member

Resolved to accept the following new member for membership and allocate shares accordingly:

Warrnambool Co-operative Society Ltd

Resolved that Jason Ernst be appointed a delegate for Warrnambool Co-operative Society Ltd.

Membership Cancellations

The Executive Officer reported that the following members were to be advised that their membership would be cancelled and their shares forfeited unless they paid their 1999/2000 membership subscriptions.

Ballarat Childcare Co-op Ltd
 Ballarat Taxis Co-op Ltd
 Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron Co-op Ltd
 Cape Volney Co-op Ltd
 Consolidated Herd Improvement Co-op Ltd
 Dandenong & District Aborigines Co-op Ltd
 Down to Earth (Victoria) Co-op Ltd
 Emu Farmers Co-op Ltd
 Gippsland Tip Truck Hiring Co-op Ltd
 Green Lands Co-op Ltd
 Hopetoun Courier Co-op Ltd
 Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Co-op Soc Ltd
 Macauley Community Credit Union Co-op Ltd
 Mirboo North Newspaper Co-op Ltd

Moonee Creek Co-op Ltd
Moorabin Rental Housing Co-op Ltd
Muslim Community Co-op (Australia) Ltd
Skye Childrens Co-op Ltd
South Barwon Rental Housing Co-op Ltd
Timboon Herd Improvement Co-op Ltd
Victorian Venison Producers Co-op Ltd
Warm Corners Co-op Ltd
West Gippsland Herd Improvement Co-op Ltd
Wombat Co-op Ltd

It was noted that the explanations for non-payment were various and included:

- Co-operatives who had joined for a short time only to receive assistance in the development of new Rules.
- Co-operatives who were dissatisfied with the assistance they received in the development of new Rules.
- Co-operatives who were no longer operational.
- Co-operatives who were involved in merger discussions.

It was also noted that three co-operatives who did not pay their 1999/2000 annual subscription had paid their 2000/2001 annual subscription:

Keysborough Freedom Club Co-op Ltd
Primeat Co-op Ltd
Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op Ltd

Resolved the Executive Officer to investigate whether the three co-ops could be forgiven their subscriptions for 1999/2000.

Co-operative Council of Australia

It was noted that the Executive Officer attended the Co-operative Council of Australia meeting 23 and 24 November 2000 at Centra Melbourne Airport Hotel Board Room 108. The Chairman noted that Chris Greenwood had also attended the meeting.

It was noted that reports on the meeting had been published in the November December 2000 issue of National Co-op Update and the Victorian Co-operative News.

Resolved to forward the Co-operative National Working Party a confirmation of our position as already provided by the Executive Officer.

Correspondence

The Executive Officer tabled a list of correspondence.

In response to a question, the Chairman noted that letters to the AMA and GPDV had offered Federation support in assisting GP's examine the co-operative option.

The Executive Officer noted that the United Dairey Farmers Victoria had been advised of our readiness to respond to the UDV discussion paper on dairy co-operatives.

The Chairman noted that the basis of this response would be the Kit and, therefore, co-operative education for co-operative members and directors and the possibility of a joint UDV/CFV program.

Resolved to note the correspondence tabled.

ACCORD

There was a discussion of a 17 November 2000 letter from Garry Cronan, Executive Officer, ACCORD concerning formal links with the Federation.

It was agreed that formal links were desirable but not specified in the ACCORD letter and that the options for these needed to be clarified.

The Chairman noted that there had been excellent co-operation from ACCORD with the visit of energy co-operative consultant Robert L. Church and the proposed visit of Tom Webb.

The Chairman also suggested that ACCORD could undertake a survey of Victorian co-operatives.

Resolved to discuss with ACCORD the nature of formal links and the possibility of an ACCORD survey of Victorian co-operatives.

Marketing Our Co-operative Advantage

There was a brief discussion of the visit of Tom Webb, of Global Co-operation, to Australia in May 2001.

Resolved to:

Allocate \$1500 to promote the Tom Webb seminar.

**Include in the member survey with the February issue of National Co-op
Update a question on the timing of workshops with international speakers**

Contact ACCORD/Tom Webb regarding allocating a weekend/weekday for a workshop

Dairy Co-operatives

N.Black reported on his work on the issue of the future of dairy co-operatives. He advised that he was involved in a future meeting with the Minister for Agriculture Keith Hamilton.

It was noted that the Executive Officer had been asked to contribute an article on dairy co-operatives to the Murray Goulburn newspaper, The Devondaler. It was noted that the Federation would not now seek to develop a public position on the future development of dairy co-operatives and that N.Black would continue to advise the board of developments.

Board Meeting Dates 2001

It was agreed to the following board meeting dates for 2001:

17 January
14 March
16 May
18 July
19 September

Energy Aggregation Meeting

The Chairman noted that attendance at the Energy Aggregation Meeting to following the board meeting at 3.30 pm was uncertain but that the following co-operatives had expressed an interest:

Avoca District Co-operative Ltd
Central Highlands Co-operative Ltd
Cobden A.B. Co-operative Ltd
Fitzroy & Carlton Community Credit Co-operative Ltd
Rupnorth Co-operative Ltd
South East Housing Co-operative Ltd
Urban Camp Melbourne Co-operative Ltd
Warrnambool Co-operative Society Ltd
Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op
Y.C.W. Co-operative Society Ltd

The Chairman said that this was a most satisfactory response.

Membership of CPS

The Chairman reported that the Federation was a member of Co-operative Purchasing Services Ltd (CPS), that CPS had now introduced an annual subscription and the Federation was being asked to pay \$275, that the \$275 was not available from the Budget, that continued membership was difficult to justify on the basis of usage but that CPS had been very supportive of the Federation such as through the JLT insurance initiative.

Resolved to maintain membership of CPS on the basis of an in-kind advertising pro rata.

NEXT MEETING: 10.30 a.m. 17 January 2001 subject to advice from the Chairman, at Co-operative Purchasing Services Ltd, Suite 2, Level 2, 420 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South.

Prepared and checked by Chairman and Executive Officer: 18 – 19 December
Mailed: 19 December 2000